

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 03878 271605Z
ACTION NEA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
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EO 11652: NA
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SUBJECT: MOROCCAN PARLIAMENTARY VISIT

REF A. STATE 155608, B. RABAT 3791

1. AMBASSADOR MET WITH PARLIAMENT PRESIDENT DEY OULD SIDI BABA JUNE 26 TO DISCUSS VISIT PROGRAM. SIDI BABA MADE OPENING REQUEST TO BE INFORMED AS SOON AS CONFIRMATION HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM SPEAKER O'NEILL REGARDING PROPOSED MORNING ARRIVAL JULY 24 FOR TWO-DAY VISIT, HIGHLIGHT OF WHICH WOULD BE CONGRESSIONAL MEETING. HE ALLUDED TO FURTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR BENGELLOUN WHO WOULD INTERRUPT A VACATION IN ORDER TO BE BACK IN WASHINGTON FOR THE DELEGATIONS'S VISIT. BENGELLOUN WOULD, HE THOUGHT, GIVE A DINNER OR RECEPTION.

2. SIDI BABA SAID HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO MEET WITH AS MANY CONGRESSMEN AS POSSIBLE. HE ALSO ASKED WHETHER WHITE HOUSE MEETING WOULD BE POSSIBLE. AMBASSADOR SAID HE UNAWARE OF PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE BUT NOTED IMPOSSIBILITY FOR BOUCETTA TO BE RECEIVED LAST MARCH BECAUSE OF PRESIDENT'S VERY HEAVY COMMITMENTS. SIDI BABA SAID HE WAS AWARE OF EXCELLENT MEETING BOUCETTA HAD WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AT THAT TIME, ALLUDED TO WARM APRIL 4

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LETTER HE HAD RECEIVED FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT, AND HOPED IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR DELEGATION TO MEET BRIEFLY WITH HIM. SIDI BABA'S ONLY OTHER PROGRAM REQUEST WAS FOR DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING MEETING WITH THE PRESS. AMBASSADOR AGREED THAT SUCH MEETINGS WOULD BE USEFUL BUT SUGGESTED THAT MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR BENGELLOUN MIGHT PREFER TO TAKE THE LEAD, WITH THE DEPARTMENT HELPING HIM IN ANY APPROPRIATE

SUPPORTING ROLE. SIDI BABA ALSO HAD ONE ADMINISTRATIVE REQUEST. HE SAID HE HOPED THE US SIDE COULD FURNISH AN INTERPRETER, HOPEFULLY ALEC TOUMAYAN WHO ACCOMPANIED CODEL SMITH TO MOROCCO. AMBASSADOR NOTED HE HAD ALREADY SPOKEN TO BOB FLATEN IN H RE TOUMAYAN'S SERVICES, IF LATTER AVAILABLE.

3. AMBASSDOR ASKED WHETHER, IN ADDITION TO TOUR OF CAPITOL AND BRIEFING ON ADMINISTRATIVE WORKINGS OF CONGRESS, MOROCCAN DELEGATION MIGHT ALSO BE INTERESTED IN A TOUR OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS. SIDI BABA ENTHUSIASTICALLY ENDORSED THIS IDEA, SAYING THAT THE KING HAD ONLY RECENTLY CHARGED HIM WITH ORGANIZING THE "MOST EXTENSIVE LIBRARY IN AFRICA". WHEN MOROCCO CONSTRUCTS ITS NEW PARLIAMENTARY QUARTERS. SIDI BABA ALSO REACTED POSITIVELY TO A VISIT TO MT. VERNON.

4. WE DID NOT RAISE POSSIBLE ICA-FUNDED TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF WASHINGTON IN VIEW OF FUNDING UNCERTAINTY. HOWEVER, IF FUNDING QUESTION CAN BE RESOLVED EARLY ENOUGH TO FIGURE INTO DELEGATION'S PLANNING, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE TO EXPOSE GROUP BRIEFLY TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, PERHAPS LINKED TO A TRIP TO WILLIAMSBURG. WE ASSUME MONIES CITED REFTEL A ARE DIFFERENT FROM POST'S IV ALLOCATION AND WOULD NOT PREJUDICE POST'S NOMINATIONS MADE IN RABAT 3526. IF SO, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THESE LATTER WOULD HAVE PRIORITY. AS MATTERS NOW STAND, DELEGATION PLANS TO RETURN TO NEW YORK MORNING JULY 26 WITH ALL MEMBERS EXCEPT SIDI BABA HIMSELF RETURNING TO MOROCCO SOON THEREAFTER.

5. SIDI BABA SAID HE HOPED TO ENTER "MAYO CLINIC" IN NEW YORK FOR CHECK-UP FOLLOWING WASHINGTON PORTION. HE ASKED THAT WE LOOK INTO THIS POSSIBILITY. AS WE BELIEVE AMB BENGELLOUN MAY ALREADY BE SEIZED WITH THE MATTER, BELIEVE DEPT SHOULD SEEK HIS ADVICE TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY ASSISTANCE REQUIRED. SIDI BABA SAID HE WOULD PROBABLY ALSO TELEPHONE MOROCCAN CONSUL GENERAL JAIDI IN NEW YORK.

6. COMMENT: BELIEVE THAT SIDI BABA IS WELL LAUNCHED IN TERMS OF WHO SHOULD DO WHAT REGARDING VISIT ARRANGEMENTS AND SUGGEST DEPT HOLD BENGELLOUN'S FEET TO THE FIRE AS APPROPRIATE, WHILE HELPING AS MUCH AS IT CAN TO MAKE VISIT A SUCCESS. SIDI BABA IS VERY PROTOCOL CONSCIOUS, AND WILL EXPECT TO BE RECEIVED AT APPROPRIATE LEVELS. IN ADDITION, AS VISIT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH KING, IT WILL BE VIEWED HERE AS AN IMPORTANT REFLECTION OF

THE STATE OF OUR RELATIONS. IT WILL, OF COURSE, TAKE
PLACE AT SAME TIME AS GOM WELCOME TO MISS LILLIAN
DURING PROJECTED REST STOP ON HER WAY TO SAHEL.

7. PROJECT OFFICER AT THIS END IS POLITICAL OFFICER
CHARLES L. DARIS.
ANDERSON

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